

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

AMC CG explains importance of Camp Arifjan

Kuwait camp becomes hub for U.S. missions

by Diana Elias

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (AP) - The war in neighboring Iraq has turned this logistics facility into a major hub for the U.S. military, where 8,000 men and women go about their duty seemingly impervious to the blowing dust and the ruthless dry heat.

Less than a year ago Camp Arifjan wasn't even operational - and wasn't supposed to be for another few years, Gen. Paul Kern, chief of the U.S. Army Materiel Command that runs the camp, told reporters Sunday.

"As it turned out, this became the central hub for everything," he said during a brief visit to Kuwait, Washington's main launch pad for the invasion of Iraq.

Kern said 90 percent of equipment coming in and out of Iraq goes through the camp, for maintenance, pre-positioning or shipping elsewhere.

"For us the work is not over. In fact, it is expanding," the commander said.

By 2005, Camp Arifjan, some 40 miles south of Kuwait City, is to replace Camp Doha, the main U.S. camp in Kuwait since the 1991 Gulf War.

While Camp Doha, west of Kuwait City, consists of warehouses that belong to a private company, Camp Arifjan's gray buildings were designed and built for military purposes.

Even its tents, called "force providers," offer floors, air conditioning and shower facilities. Although the base contains an L-shaped swimming pool and a closed gym, some troops prefer to get their daily exercise by jogging under the baking sun in almost 120-degree heat.

At the camp's Patton Army Heliport, St. Sgt. Donnie Bartunek of



US Army Staff Sgt. Gerard Calaham, from Connecticut, works on a damaged American Apache attack helicopter at Camp Arifjan, 80 Km south of Kuwait City Sunday, June 22, 2003. Arifjan is considered the logistic center for the US troops deployed in the area of Kuwait and Iraq. (AP Photo/Gustavo Ferrari)

EastAddam, Conn., was working on the stabilizer of a Black Hawk helicopter. His eyes were bloodshot, but he didn't seem to mind the hair-dryer-like hot air blowing into the hangar.

"Arifjan is pretty easy once you get used to it," said Bartunek, 44, who drinks about 6.3 pints of water a day. "The ones up north (in Iraq) have to really sweat it out," he told The Associated Press.

Hundreds of trucks, Bradley vehicles, tanks and aircraft are lined up in desert lots on the sprawling camp built on what used to be a favored bird hunting ground for Kuwaitis.

"There is not a lot of war damage to the equipment," Kern said. Most of it was caused either by sandstorms or by U.S. troops in order to immobilize vehicles so Iraqis couldn't seize them.

continued on page 2



US army apache helicopters search an area in Baqubah, Iraq, after an attack on a US convoy killed one soldier and wounded another, Sunday June 22, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

Two bombs explode in northern Afghan city

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Two bombs exploded simultaneously in the center of a northern Afghan city, damaging buildings that house offices of the government and a U.S. military team, a military commander said Sunday.

No casualties were reported in the explosions, which occurred around midnight Saturday in the northern city of Kunduz, said Gen. Mohammad Daoud, military commander of Kunduz province.

One bomb exploded in front of a government municipality building.

The second exploded beside two buildings housing an office of the government's Constitutional Review Commission and a so-called Provincial Reconstruction Team, or PRT, of the U.S. military.

The blasts shattered glass in both buildings but no serious damage was reported, Daoud said.

It was unclear who was behind the blasts, but security forces in Kunduz arrested one person in connection with the incident, he said.

Insurgents opposed to the government and coalition forces have

Kuwait camp becomes hub for U.S. missions continued

The Army Materiel Command has shipped 1.2 million tons of equipment over 8,000 miles for Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to a fact sheet.

Between December 2002 and March, it delivered enough meals to feed the entire town of Spokane, Wash., for over a year.

Some 15 million gallons of fuel were provided daily, about the same consumption as the entire state of Florida in one day.

been stepping up attacks in Afghanistan in recent months.

The American PRTs consist of small teams soldiers engaged in humanitarian missions like rebuilding schools and clinics. The office in Kunduz is one of three set up by U.S. forces in the country.

U.S. Marine dies in Djibouti exercise; 8 others wounded

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti (AP) - An explosion that may have been caused by a bomb dropped from a B-52 killed a U.S. Marine and wounded eight U.S. service members during a Sunday training exercise in this Horn of Africa nation, U.S. Central Command said.

The explosion occurred near forces at Godoria Bombing Range, along the northern coast of Djibouti, a Central Command statement said.

The names of the victim and injured were being withheld pending notification of relatives.

Two service members were treated for minor injuries and returned to their units. The other six injured were transported to Bouffard Hospital in Djibouti, where they were in stable condition, said Capt. Will Klumpp, a spokesman for the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters supporting the exercise and parked near the range also were damaged in the accident, which was under investigation. Klumpp declined to give any more details while the investigation was ongoing.

Forces supporting Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa were participating in a routine two-day training exercise, the statement

continued on page 6

U.S. announces creation of new Iraq army

by Jim Krane

RAMADI, Iraq (AP) - U.S.-led civil administrators announced the creation of a new Iraqi army Monday and said recruitment will begin next week, hoping to contain Iraqi anger over desperate unemployment and to curb a rash of attacks against U.S. forces.

The insurgents' latest attacks included rocket propelled grenades fired at U.S. Army patrols in the western towns of Khaldiya and Habaniya, and an ambush in Ramadi that involved a 12-year-old girl, the military said Monday. No one was injured.

In Baghdad, the first U.S. Senate delegation to visit Iraq cautioned that Americans should expect their forces to remain in Iraq for as long as five years.

"I don't think the American people fully appreciate just how long we are going to be committed here and what the overall cost will be," said Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., after meeting the head of the civil administration, L. Paul Bremer.

"I predict as much as five years," added Richard Lugar, R-Ind., the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., the ranking Democrat on the committee, said: "We can't afford to fail the Iraqi people or ourselves." Whatever happens in Iraq will have an impact on the entire region, he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. experts were trying to identify the remains of those killed when coalition air and ground forces attacked a convoy of Iraqi leaders believed trying to escape to Syria, officials in Washington said.

Officials said they had no reason yet to believe that ousted leader Saddam Hussein or his sons Odai or Qusai were among the fugitives, however.

DNA tests are being conducted on the remains found at the site in western Iraq, near the Syrian border, as first reported in The Observer of London. Special operations forces attacked the three-vehicle convoy last Wednesday, working on information from previously captured leaders, the officials said.

Saddam and his sons are the top three on the U.S. list of most-wanted officials in Iraq, and coalition officials say the lack of evidence about their fate is fueling resistance to the occupation within Iraq.

On Sunday, Iraq made its first foray back into the international oil market since the war, with the loading of 1 million barrels of crude onto a Turkish tanker at the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.



US troops remove window tints from passing motorists at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq on Monday June 23, 2003. US forces began removing window tints Monday as one of the security measures to thwart a spiraling series of guerrilla-style attacks perpetrated against patrols and convoys in the capital and neighboring places. (AP Photo/Ali Haider)

But sabotage and looting of the 600-mile pipeline from the northern Iraqi town of Kirkuk to Ceyhan delayed the flow of freshly pumped oil - the key to reconstructing an economy devastated by sanctions and war. Pumping was supposed to have begun Sunday.

Sabotage was blamed for a massive fire in a gas pipeline about 94 miles west of Baghdad on Saturday, and the al-Jazeera satellite television station reported another pipeline explosion near the Syrian border on Sunday. That report could not immediately be confirmed, and it was not clear if the second fire was the result of sabotage.

Information Radio, operated by the U.S.-led coalition, broadcast an appeal Monday for Iraqis to help police the pipeline and report the location of looted equipment. It said Iraq was losing \$50 million a week needed for the nation's reconstruction due to delays caused by sabotage and theft.

The civil administration moved to stem an angry movement among former Iraqi army soldiers who lost their livelihood when the army was dismantled on May 23. U.S. troops killed two ex-servicemen last Wednesday when a soldiers' demonstration turned violent.

"I am pleased to announce this first step in creating an armed force that will be professional, nonpolitical, militarily effective and truly representative of the country," said Walter Slocombe, a senior adviser for security and defense for the administration.

Slocombe said an initial division of 12,000 men will be ready within a year and will grow to 40,000 within three years - still just a fraction of

continued on page 4

U.S. forces enter Afghan border areas

by Todd Pitman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - U.S.-led coalition forces poured into border areas in eastern Afghanistan to prevent insurgents from crossing in from Pakistan to launch attacks, the U.S. military said.

Operation Unified Resolve began this week in Gosta and nearby districts of Nangarhar province, an area near the Pakistan frontier that has "historically served as an al-Qaida stronghold," U.S. military spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said Saturday in an e-mailed statement from Bagram Air Base.

After setting up a base this week in Jalalabad, the bulk of the U.S. forces involved Saturday "conducted an air assault and ground movement in order to rapidly position forces along the Afghanistan-

U.S. announces creation of new Iraq army continued

the Saddam's military force of 400,000. Slocombe said up to 250,000 ex-soldiers will be eligible for support payments of \$50 to \$150 per month from the administration.

In Ramadi, a patrol of two tanks and four Humvees came under small-arms fire on Sunday, and the patrol saw a young girl running away with an AK-47 assault rifle, said Capt. Burris Wollsieffer, of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The bullets landed harmlessly in the dirt around the vehicles, he told The Associated Press on Monday.

The troops followed the girl home and found the rifle wrapped in a red dress propped in a corner. Three men in the household were taken for interrogation, but the troops allowed the girl to remain at home when they learned her age. They also seized \$1,500 in cash and \$1,000 in Iraqi dinars, the officer said.

None of the troops saw who fired the weapon, although they found no other suspects in the area other than the young girl.

"It's just weird. It's totally unconventional," said Wollsieffer, when asked about the rising number of ambushes on his forces in Ramadi, a town where resistance to the occupation has been high. "It's guerrilla warfare."

Two senior army officers met Monday with a prominent Islamic cleric, Abdullah al-Annay, who preaches in two Ramadi mosques, to ask him to tone down his anti-American sermons, Wollsieffer said.

"If he keeps this kind of speech going, they are just going to attack us more and more," he said. Wollsieffer's regiment has lost 10 men - more than half the 18 men reported killed in combat - since May 1 when major fighting was declared over.

The latest casualty came Sunday, when a grenade exploded into a military vehicle south of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding another from the 1st Armored Division.

AP reporters Chris Tomlinson, embedded with the 3rd Infantry Division, and Tarek al-Issawi in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Pakistan border ... to prevent threat elements from crossing the border," Davis said.

Across the border in Pakistan, dozens of tribesmen fired Saturday at a convoy of Pakistani troops who this week moved into the remote tribal region bordering Afghanistan for the first time, a tribal elder said.

Neither side suffered casualties in the brief confrontation in the region of Salala, 75 miles northeast of Peshawar, Imdadullah Khan told The Associated Press.

"Talks are under way between the army and the tribesmen to solve this issue," he said.

Pakistan, a key U.S. ally in its war on terrorism, has moved troops into the tense region to track down possible Taliban and al-Qaida remnants.

The U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan was described as a "cooperative combat and civil affairs operation" that was part humanitarian, part military.

continued on page 5



An Afghan policeman frisks a civilian as a German soldier , right, keeps guard during a surprise search operation for weapons or explosives in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, June 21, 2003. With the help of German soldiers from International Security Assistance force Afghan police carried out the search operation in the capital. No arrest was made. (AP Photo/Amir Shah)

Tape warns of al-Qaida suicide strikes

by Kathy Gannon

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - A masked militant, speaking in a video filmed in a mud hut, warns of new al-Qaida suicide attacks and says Osama bin Laden's terror network carried out deadly bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

If authentic, the video would be the first al-Qaida claim of responsibility for the suicide attacks on foreign housing compounds in Riyadh, which killed 26 people and nine attackers, and bombings in Casablanca that killed 43 people and 12 attackers.

Obtained Saturday by The Associated Press, the video also appeared to reflect an increasing alliance between three top opponents of the United States in Afghanistan: Al-Qaida; the remnants of the former Taliban regime; and the followers of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an Afghan rebel leader whom the United States calls a terrorist and has tried to kill.

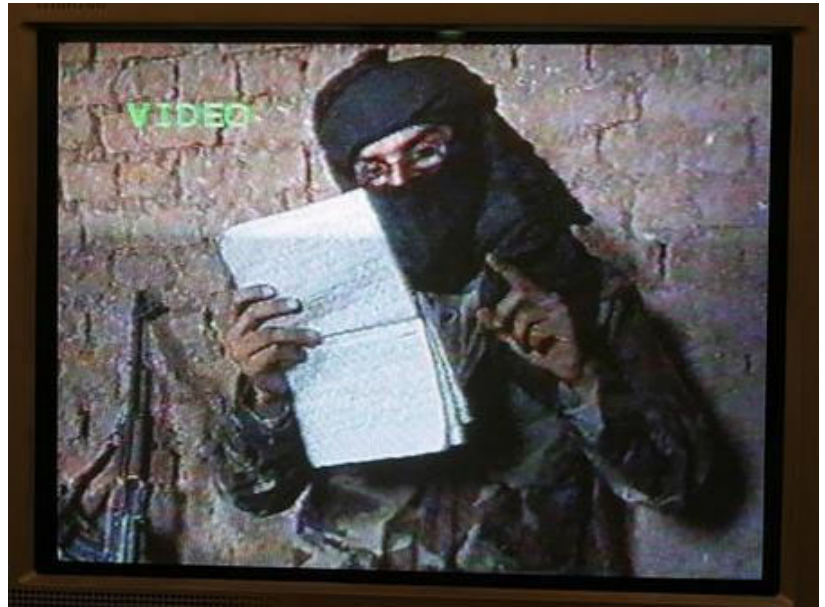
The man on the scratchy videocassette, who identified himself as Abu Haris Abdul Hakim, said he speaks in the name of all three groups. He spoke in Arabic, but did not give his nationality. His face was covered by a black turban.

The videotape was obtained from a senior intelligence official in Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami organization. The official confirmed that the speaker on the tape was speaking for Hekmatyar's party, which he said was working with al-Qaida and the Taliban.

The White House declined to comment on the video Saturday.

The speaker in the tape says al-Qaida is active and planning new attacks this month, saying, "Osama is alive and in Afghanistan." Though he suggests the attacks will take place in Afghanistan, he also points to wider operations.

"The recent attacks in Riyadh and Morocco were planned and they



In this picture taken from television, an Arabic-speaking guerrilla who identified himself as Abu Haris Abdul Hakim, warns of new al-Qaida suicide attacks and says Osama bin Laden's terror network carried out deadly bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco. If authentic, the video would be the first al-Qaida claim of responsibility for the suicide attacks on foreign housing compounds in Riyadh, which killed 26 people and nine attackers, and bombings in Casablanca that killed 43 people and 12 attackers. (AP Photo/B.K. Bangash)

were part of our martyrdom operations. You will see more such attacks in the future," the speaker in the video said.

Saudi and U.S. officials have blamed al-Qaida for the Riyadh attacks. Moroccan authorities say an international terrorism ring carried out the Casablanca attacks, and they are looking at possible links to al-Qaida.

At one point, the man holds up a crudely written sign that says June 14th, apparently a reference to the date it was made - though it was

continued on page 6

U.S. forces enter Afghan border areas continued

"We're assessing villages to determine their needs for wells, schools, roads, irrigation systems and medical clinics while simultaneously demonstrating our ability to hinder the enemy's movement and apply pressure whenever and wherever we choose," Davis said.

Threats against U.S. forces in Nangarhar were limited to "harassing attacks," mostly homemade bombs in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, Davis said. Some bombs have also targeted local government officials.

Authorities blame the bomb and rocket attacks on renegade warlord, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, Davis said.

The U.S.-led operation came days after insurgents detonated a bomb and opened fire on a U.S. special operations convoy in near Asadabad in neighboring Kunar province, farther north.

The ambush was the latest in a series of stepped up attacks by insurgents in Afghanistan over the last several months. The insurgents are believed to be a mix of holdouts from the former Taliban regime, fugitive members of the al-Qaida terrorist network and loyalists of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former prime minister.

About 11,500 coalition troops, most of them Americans, are in Afghanistan carrying out operations against the guerrillas. The Taliban government was toppled in a U.S.-led war in 2001.

Marines begin special operations try

by Gidget Fuentes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) - Eighty-six men have begun a one-year trial to determine if the Marines will join Navy SEALs, Green Berets and Air Force Special Operations Forces in the military's special operations forces.

The Marine Corps Special Operations Command Detachment One was activated during a ceremony Friday at Camp Pendleton, where it will begin training next week.

In October, the commando force will join Naval Special Warfare Group One in Coronado, Calif., to train with the Navy. It will go overseas in April, likely for combat missions in the war on terror.

Unlike other special operations forces, the Marines unit will have a deep roster of specialists in areas including fire support, counter-intelligence, linguistics and communications. Marine Lt. Col. Robert J. Coates, a seasoned reconnaissance officer, is heading the unit.

The mix of troops "provides the type of light mobile and lethal forces critical to success in the global war on terrorism," said Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston, who commands all Marine Corps forces in the Pacific region.

The troops have an unusual degree of seniority and experience. The

youngest members are sergeants, with an average age of 33. Each has completed 15 to 20 different schools, which range from airborne and dive schools to advanced courses in close-quarters combat, free-fall parachuting and demolition.

continued on page 7

U.S. Marine dies in Djibouti exercise; 8 others wounded continued

said. The exercise was halted after the accident.

Klumpp said he did not know exactly how many service members were participating in the exercise, the fourth of its kind since the task force began its anti-terror work in Africa. Previous exercises involved dozens of troops, he said.

Since the Taliban was driven from power in Afghanistan by a U.S.-led coalition in late 2001, the U.S. military has paid more attention to finding remnants of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist organization in the Horn of Africa region. The task force has played a major role in that effort.

The Horn of Africa and neighboring Yemen, Kenya and Sudan have been cited as security concerns by the United States.

Tape warns of al-Qaida suicide strikes continued

impossible to confirm.

"Oh our brothers in Palestine, Chechnya, Kashmir and Iraq: We will have good news for you very soon. And it will be about our supremacy over the Americans. This will be in the shape of martyrdom (suicide) attacks against Americans in the current month," Hakim said.

Insurgents in Afghanistan have stepped up their attacks against U.S. forces in recent months. On Saturday, U.S. forces flooded into a region in northeastern Afghanistan, near the border, to stop infiltrators from Pakistan carrying out attacks.

The speaker said the coming attacks would mimic those carried out in the Afghan cities and towns of Kabul, Kandahar and Spinboldak. On June 7, an explosive-laden taxi rammed a bus carrying German peacekeepers in Kabul, killing four Germans and an Afghan civilian. In both Kandahar and Spinboldak there have been grenade assaults and remote controlled bombings.

"Our mujahedeen brothers are regrouping in Kunar, Khost, Gardez, Jalalabad, Kabul and Logar," he said, referring to parts of Afghanistan. "They are engaged in preparations for the attack."

In the 35-minute video, the speaker is seen seated on a straw mat on the floor of a brick mud hut with a Kalashnikov assault rifle by his side as he read from several sheets of paper. With his face hidden, it was impossible to confirm his identity, though the intelligence official also said it was Hakim.

During the Taliban rule, Hakim was known to speak in the name of al-Qaida in interviews with the official news agency Bakhtar, run by the hard-line Islamic religious militia.

In the last week, pamphlets recruiting Afghans for suicide bombings have been circulated in Afghanistan's southeastern regions. The pamphlets - signed by Mullah Akhtar Uzmani, the Taliban's former military chief and a key lieutenant of the Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar - threatened a suicide bombing before the end of this month if three Afghan officials identified by name were not fired.

The speaker in the videotape said al-Qaida and its allies were "alive and have started operations again. And very soon we will bring the Americans and their agents to justice."

The intelligence official said al-Qaida, Taliban and Hekmatyar forces were working together but in most parts of the country they have separate commands.

In the northeastern regions of Afghanistan, al-Qaida forces are commanded by Abu Ali Al Maliki, who fought with Hekmatyar against other Afghan factions during the 1992-96 civil war, according to the intelligence official.

The main Taliban figure in that region is Mullah Abdul Raouf, believed to be the former Taliban governor of Paktia province, he said.

Fort Jackson drill sergeant Army's best

by Chuck Crumbo, Staff Writer, Columbia State

Fort Jackson's top drill sergeant is now regarded as the best in the Army.

Sgt. 1st Class Billie Jo Miranda won the Army's top award for active-duty drill sergeants on Friday after four days of competition at Fort Monroe, Va.

Sgt. 1st Class Corenna L. Rouse was selected as the Reserve drill sergeant of the year. She represented the 100th Training Division in Louisville, Ky.

Friday's awards also marked the first time since the drill-sergeant competition started in 1969 that women won both categories.

"Several females have won in the past in both the active-duty and Reserve categories," said Ray Harp, a spokesman for the Training

and Doctrine Command, the Fort Monroe-based Army command that sponsors the yearly competition. "But this is the first time that two have won at the same time."

Miranda and Rouse also received the Meritorious Service Medal.

With the honor, the winners will be representing some 6,000 drill sergeants who train about 300,000 soldiers annually. They'll also advise the Army's Training and Doctrine Command on issues dealing with drill sergeants as well as basic training.

This year's competition featured 14 active-duty and seven Army Reserve drill sergeants. Each competitor won a "drill sergeant of the year" prize at his or her installation before competing at the national finals. Only four of the contestants were women.

continued on page 9



U.S. Army military police Capt. Joe Hissim from Oxford, New Jersey helps an Iraqi policeman adjust his new armband June 23, 2003 at the local police headquarters in Falluja, northwest of Baghdad. U.S. troops from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team issued new uniforms, weapons and patrol cars to the local Iraqi police force. Reuters photo.

Marines begin special operations try continued

The trial run comes just as the Bush administration seeks to grow the 47,000-member U.S. Special Operations force by 2,563 and boost its budget by 46 percent. The joint command enjoys strong backing from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Initially, the Marines' presence will be tiny compared to the 2,700 Navy SEALs and special boat crews, 26,000 Army Rangers and Green Berets and 10,000 Air Force special operations personnel. The Marines troops seemed unfazed by the unit's relatively small size.

Sgt. Mike Mulvihill, a 10-year Marine veteran who left the military

two years ago, jumped at Coates' invitation a few months ago to join the force.

"I was doing cartwheels in my living room," said Mulvihill, 35, of Pittsburgh.

Master Sgt. James R. Rutan drew a parallel between the new force and the Marine Raiders, who were pioneers in amphibious reconnaissance operations during World War II.

"It's everything we always wished for to be nationally recognized," Rutan said.

Belgium to change its war crimes law

by Paul Ames

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Facing a U.S. threat to force NATO's headquarters out of Brussels, the Belgian government agreed Sunday to change a war crimes law used to target President Bush and other prominent Americans.

The amendments would reduce the law's global ambitions, limiting the reach of Belgian courts to cases with a direct link to the country, such as when victims or suspects are Belgian citizens or residents.

As it stands, the unique 1993 law allows charges to be brought regardless of where war crimes took place. First applied against Rwandans implicated in the 1994 genocide there, the law since has been used by human rights campaigners, political groups and disgruntled individuals to file complaints against a score of international figures.

Government officials said proposed changes would prevent more cases like those lodged recently against Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Secretary of State Colin Powell, or an earlier complaint against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that provoked outrage in Israel.

"It's not up to Belgium to decide if its justice is better than American justice, or Israeli justice or that of European countries," Foreign Minister Louis Michel said. "We have fine-tuned the law to avoid abuses."

It was unclear whether the changes would placate Washington, which insists the law be dropped. Targeting of Americans intensified in recent weeks after the Iraq war, leading to lawsuits against Bush, Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other senior U.S. officials.

Responding to an earlier complaint filed by a left-wing lawyer against U.S. Gen. Tommy Franks, Rumsfeld on June 12 froze funding for a \$352 million new NATO headquarters in Brussels and warned that the United States could boycott alliance meetings at the current headquarters.

Even before Rumsfeld's threat, the Belgian government had introduced changes to the legislation to allow the authorities to block cases brought against citizens from countries judged to have fair legal systems.

Using those changes, it quickly rejected the recent cases against U.S. officials. Washington, however, said more was needed to prevent the filing of complaints in the first place.

Belgian officials said the new changes should satisfy U.S. concerns by limiting complaints to cases involving Belgians and introducing further safeguards to ensure courts swiftly reject complaints filed against citizens from democratic countries.

Michel said the changes would end "rash and annoying complaints that wrongly target figures from partner countries." The foreign minister himself fell foul of the law Friday when an opposition group

filed a complaint concerning arms sales to Nepal.

The new amendments likely will be approved by parliament, where the governing Liberal and Socialist parties have a majority and the main opposition party has proposed similar changes.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt denied charges his government was folding in the face of U.S. pressure, insisting the changes were in response to the recent spate of politically motivated complaints.

"It's not American pressure. If anything, that would have the opposite effect," he said. "We wanted to find a solution that allows us to keep the law."

He said past and present atrocities in Rwanda and Congo - both former Belgian colonies - showed the need for maintaining the law in its revised form.

Human rights campaigners criticized the changes but were relieved the government had not decided to drop it completely.

"They've gone a little too far in reducing the scope ... of the law," said Reed Brody, counsel with Human Rights Watch in New York. "It could have been worse."



US troops in a humvee pass by a burning oil pipeline at Hit, 150 kilometers (93 miles) northwest of Iraq, following an explosion Sunday June 22, 2003. The explosion, which is still under investigation, came at a time when Iraq is due to resume oil exports Sunday following the war that ousted Saddam Hussein. Iraq, which exported around two million barrels per day before the US war to oust Saddam Hussein, is due to resume oil sales on Sunday from storage tanks in Turkey. (AP Photo/Ali Haider)

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Some soldiers are open to idea of 6-month rotation in Iraq

by Kent Harris, Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Serve a six-month rotation in one of the world's hottest spots?

A handful of soldiers in the 1st Armored Division would readily volunteer for such a mission. Of course, those soldiers are already in the Iraqi capital. And they're willing to gamble that half a year is shorter than what they might end up serving here.

"One of the hardest parts is not knowing when you're going to come home," said Pvt. Christopher King of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, while guarding one of the entrances to the Martyrs Monument in northeast Baghdad.

During testimony before a congressional committee last week, Defense Department officials reportedly didn't dispute statements by committee members that American forces might be required in Iraq for at least a decade.

If that's true, then a rotation of forces similar to the process established in ongoing peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo might be in the cards for American active-duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers stationed in Europe and the States.

Capt. David Williams, who leads Company C of the 55th Personnel Support Battalion based in Friedberg, Germany, served in an infantry unit in Bosnia in 1998. Now, he's often in an office in Iraq handling personnel records and mail distribution at the 1st AD's 1st Brigade headquarters.

"It's a lot more dangerous here," he said of the difference between the two missions. Of course, that's because the fighting in Bosnia had essentially been over for years during Williams' deployment there. That's not true in Iraq, where there are still pockets of resistance and those who seemingly don't acknowledge the current American role in the country.

But Spc. Karla Torres, who serves in Williams' company, said soldiers feel they're performing a vital, though sometimes dangerous, mission.

"It's very important. We're not going to have a repeat of what we did in '91," she said, referring to the U.S. decision not to push Saddam Hussein from power in the Persian Gulf War. The decision is cited by some today as part of the reason why some Iraqis are hesitant to embrace the American troops.

For his part, King said his interaction with the local population has been positive. Locals seem to be grateful the Americans are here, he said.

"It's not much different than other Third World countries," said Pfc. Jesus Lugo, a scout for the brigade. He said Iraq's a bit like Mexico, "with an L.A. twist."



Spc. Pierre Dubois of the 671st Engineer Company of the Oregon National Guard scans the Tigris River during an evening boat patrol with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment of the Florida National Guard. Photo by Michael Abrams, Stars and Stripes.

But Lugo and others interviewed said they could endure six months in Iraq, especially if they had a better handle on when they were leaving.

"Six months you can just set in your mind and you know how long it's going to be," Williams said. "You can have something to look forward to."

For many U.S. soldiers, a rotation in Iraq might just be that, something to mark on the calendar.

Fort Jackson drill sergeant Army's best continued

Miranda, named Fort Jackson's 2003 Drill Sergeant of the Year in March, is now stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

She joined the Army in 1992 and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. At Fort Jackson, Miranda was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment.

Other honors she has received include the Army's "Soldier of the Year" award in 1993. She's also a member of the elite Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, which is named after the legendary World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Gen. Byrnes speaks on TRADOC's 30th Anniversary

by Sgt. 1st Class Reginald P. Rogers, TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. (June 10, 2003) – The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command will celebrate its 30th Anniversary July 1. The Army has undergone many changes during the past three decades, which have helped shape it into the world's greatest fighting force.

According to TRADOC Commanding General Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC and the Army's recent success can be traced back to senior leadership plans that took place 30 years ago.

"I think the leadership of the Army in the early 1970s had a vision, a great vision," he said. "You've got to go back in time to where we were when the recommendation to create a Training and Doctrine Command was first proposed. We were in the latter stages of the Vietnam War as all this was bubbling.

"These guys weren't thinking months ahead, they were thinking years ahead," he continued. "They were thinking, 'What do we need to do to build an Army for the future?' They studied all the challenges they had and the shortfalls they expected. Gen. (William E.) DePuy held a large stake in that; he became the first commander. The petition was made to create a Training and Doctrine Command."

Byrnes said the command's mission statement established 30 years ago remains largely unchanged.

"That's the mission of responsibility for all the schoolhouse training, all the leader development and unit support, all the support for the units' training requirements. That's the mission to develop the doctrine, establish the standards and recruit the force, and build the force of the future," he explained.

Byrnes said increased technology and intellectual development have been key factors in establishing the Army as the world's greatest and most respected fighting force.

"The significance of this is in our recent success – we won the Cold War, unmistakably. It was because of the power this Army has. It wasn't about numbers; the Soviet Union had us greatly



outnumbered. But also look at the coalition we built and at the intellectual capabilities of our force – we had a superior professional development program.

"Our training program, although it was not what it is today, was good," he said. "Combat development, which included determining the equipment soldiers needed and getting it in their hands – all wrapped around a unified doctrine that emerged – set us up to be a wonderful force.

"A force that has been successful in mission after mission after mission," he continued. "Most recently, the American people learned about it every minute of every day watching 'fill in the blank radio or TV station.' The character and confidence of the American soldier came through loud and clear."

Byrnes said he thinks that if someone asks the question, "What's the significance of this anniversary?" again in 30 years, the answer would be, "What was accomplished within the 30-year span."

"As Gen. (Dennis J.) Reimer used to say, 'Soldiers are our credentials,'" he said. "I think if you take a look at what we've accomplished, that's the significance of the 30th anniversary.

"Tomorrow's victories start in TRADOC," TRADOC's leader said. "That's where soldiers first learn the fundamentals; it's where they learn their technical skills; it's where we hone the leaders' skills and push them out to the field for further incorporation into selected levels. A lot has been accomplished in 30 years, and we continue to contribute to the Army – most significantly with the fielding of the Stryker Brigade. Build now and you'll see the first element of the Objective Force before the end of the decade. It's amazing what this organization has contributed to the Army.

"As I think back on 30 years of contributions, we are the greatest Army in the world, the most respected, and it's all about our soldiers," Byrnes added. "We recruit them, we have the opportunity to train and certify them as individuals as they go into their units. It's a wonderful story, and I think Gen. DePuy and the other senior leaders were exactly right. This is what the Army needed and continues to need as we move forward into the future."

Byrnes sets sights on TRADOC's future

by Sgt. 1st Class Reginald P. Rogers
TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. (June 10, 2003) – U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Commanding General Kevin P. Byrnes assumed command Nov. 7, 2002. With nearly seven months under his belt, he granted TRADOC News Service its first interview, during which he reflected on current changes and looked forward to the command's future.

Byrnes said the first thing he wanted to tell the TRADOC community

is that the command is on schedule as the Army focuses on its future fighting force.

"I would tell them that we're on track," he explained. "We're doing what the Army and the nation needs of us. What we're doing is absolutely critical to the Army and the nation. I think if you look at our most recent success in Operation Enduring Freedom, I think that the value of training – training to standard and training under

continued on page 11

Byrnes sets sights on TRADOC's future continued

tough conditions – has proven itself to be the difference between the best Army in the world and others.”

Byrnes attributed a lot of the Army's success to leader development and noted that it will continue to



play a crucial part in the Army's success in the future.

“We grow leaders everyday in the Officer Education System and Noncommissioned Officer Education System,” he said.

He said his top priorities as TRADOC commander are leader development and ensuring that all soldiers are properly trained.

“I'll continue training and leader development as my top priority with Training and Doctrine Command because the nation won't accept anything less,” he said. “We're the greatest Army in the world. We're certainly not the largest, but we are the greatest and the most respected institution in the United States. Why is that?”

“I think it's the value, the character and the confidence of our soldiers,” he continued. “Those embedded reporters – we've known it for a while – but the embedded reporters showed the American people what we've been talking about. We've achieved a level of respect and confidence that no Army has in the past.”

He vowed that the Army would maintain the standards and confidence the American public expects it to have in the Army of the future.

Byrnes said TRADOC's mission remains largely unchanged from when Gen. William E. Depuy first laid it out 30 years ago. He said TRADOC's mission is to train the Army for war, develop leaders, establish standards, build the Army of the future and recruit the force.

He said his priorities operate within that mission framework. Byrnes' priorities are:

Support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing Global War on Terrorism - He said the command would continue to support the current operations with whatever resources are necessary.

Training and leader development to standard – “I will ensure that we have the right resources in the way of quality instructors and drill sergeants and the dollar resources so we can accomplish our mission as the Army expects us to. Beyond that, everything else is secondary.”

Transformation – “We're going to Transform this Army into an Objective Force. We're going to do it with first units being fielded this decade. We're going to get that right. There has been a lot of hard work during the last three years designing the organization.

We've also taken a hard look at the training programs, at the tactics, techniques and procedures, and at types of equipment and technology capabilities we want to put in the hands of our soldiers. But that work will continue as we move into the future.

He said Transforming the Army includes a number of major programs that must be in operation to ensure Transformation.

“The first is a rigorous experimentation program that allows us to take the good ideas and the first pieces of the future combat systems, being developed, put them in the hands of our soldiers and let them push (the equipment) to failure,” Byrnes explained. “(By doing this they can) tell us what works, what doesn't work and let us redesign it, then put it back out. The continuous spiral of the experimentation will get us better. So that when we develop the first force, (it has) been 'soldier-certified' so we have what we believe is the right soldier, the right organization, the right training, the right leader development and the right equipment in the hands of the world's best soldier.”

He said there's also an element under Transformation that tells us we will never fight another war alone again. That element is the process of combining all branches of the U.S. armed forces, along with other coalition forces to face a common enemy. That element, referred to as Jointness, is another of Byrnes' priorities.

Joint relationships – “We've got to include more of a joint force in everything we do,” he said. “We have to become fully integrated into Joint warfighting. Our exercises have to be done in a Joint context. Our doctrines have to be developed, keeping in mind that we're going to fight as a member of a Joint team. We should have in mind that we're developing the force to contribute to the joint force commander.”

Byrnes said the Objective Force cannot be developed with a narrow view. TRADOC has to consider how the joint force commander will apply the Army as one of his many tools.

“He has an air component, a naval component and a Marine force with expeditionary capabilities,” Byrnes said. “How do you get the best out of what each service can offer and achieve a balance (the joint force commander) can apply in places like Iraq, Afghanistan or a number of potential battle places in the future? We've got to contribute to the solution to the joint force commander's challenge.”

Byrnes said one of his internal challenges is for the command to figure out how to redesign TRADOC to best support the new mission with the new force. “Today we train individual soldiers and leaders, and we certify them in their skills and push them out to the force,” he explained. “When they come back to the schoolhouses at different levels, we'll run them through a training program, recertify them and, push them back out to the force.

“The Army of the future is going to be far more complex, and it's not just about greater technology,” he said. “It's going to be about organizations that have a tremendous leap in capabilities. This

continued on page 12

Byrnes sets sights on TRADOC's future continued

Objective Force we're designing is built around the soldier, of course, but the main system the soldier will have is called the Future Combat System."

Future Combat Systems – He explained that the Future Combat Systems comprises 18 hardware systems, with the 19th system as the network on which soldiers operate. The systems will be built to interoperate and leverage off one another, Byrnes said.



"The true strength of that organization will be when everything is working, everything is in the network,"

he said. "Information is flowing without any obstructions. Intelligence is collected and available to commanders at all levels on a sensor network. So you have situational understanding of what your forces are doing – those on your left and right and in other areas of your area of responsibility: what the Air Force is doing, what the Navy is doing, what the intelligence pictures.

"When you can operate like that, you can achieve greater capabilities, you can be much more lethal and you can certainly be more survivable; you can take care of your force a lot better."

Byrnes said operations with the new systems would require replacements by unit instead of the current way of individual replacements.

"Since we're going to field those kind of capabilities, we're moving to a system where we're going to replace by units. Right now, for instance, soldiers go to Korea and they fall into individual replacements. That happens everywhere in the Army," he explained. "In the future, if we want to (rotate soldiers) by units, instead of going over (to Korea) individually, we will grow a company, grow a battalion, maybe put them at Fort Hood for six months, rotate them to Europe, bring them back for a year, refill the unit – maybe by platoon or company – send them back to Korea for six months after a couple of years at (Fort) Hood.

"We're not talking about increasing the optempo, we're talking about 'how do you rotate?'" Byrnes continued. "Rotating by unit makes a lot more sense. You have immediate readiness. There a lot of other benefits."

He noted that Transformation of the force does present another challenge: the schoolhouses.

"If we're going to build far more complicated systems that interoperate and we're going to rotate by units instead of individuals, what does that leave for the schoolhouse?" he said. "I can't just train individuals any longer and send them out to the force. Does TRADOC need to be involved in training units? The first unit of

action will be an Objective Force Brigade. In TRADOC, do we pull it together, from the force, build it, get all the individual skills ready, then train crew skills, start to field the equipment, train crew, platoon, company, battalion, brigade and then provide (this unit) to the Army as a certified combat-ready force?

"That's not how we do it today. But that's just one example of things we're looking at and how we need to redesign TRADOC to best serve the Army in the period before the Objective Force is fielded."

Byrnes said TRADOC was looking at redesigning the way the schoolhouses operate so all graduating units would be similar to cohort units, which were in operation during the mid-80s. He pointed out, however, that the Department of the Army is the final authority for all plans.

He said it's important for all members of future units that will operate the Future Combat Systems to train together instead of at several different locations. This would result in increased unit cohesion and ensure that all systems within a unit are trained to interoperate properly.

"We've got a very complex training challenge with the technology that is going to be in our systems," he said. "When you've got to have all 19 systems working together to get the full benefit, I can't just train unmanned aerial vehicle operators in one place; train mortar operators at another place; and train communications guys in another place. To get the value, I've got to train them together before they go to the field, before they're deployable. They've got to be able to work together."

Innovation – "Part of our mission from the Department of the Army is to be the architect of the future," Byrnes said. "We're in charge of designing the organization for the future, for developing the doctrine and standards that future forces will operate under. I've got to have an organization here that is open-minded, that welcomes new ideas, that challenges and helps me weigh new ideas that come into the organization. We need to create a culture of thinkers and innovators who look at a challenge and input a set of ways of doing it, not just apply band-aids and bailing wire to fix old ways of doing business. If something needs to be changed and it makes sense to me, let's figure out the best way to do it. I seek collaboration and will collaborate with other services on challenges, and with industry where it makes sense. Any way I can find good ideas and solutions to challenges, I want to work with those people to get it done."

Accessions – "(Training and Doctrine Command) is responsible for recruiting the force, taking them through initial-entry training and handing them off to their first unit as technically qualified in their MOS field, qualified as a soldier, schooled in all the fundamentals," Byrnes explained. "When their first unit gets them, they will continue learning and grow on to become first contributing members of crews and platoons.

"That's a tough mission," he said. "But it's not just enlisted; I also

continued on page 13

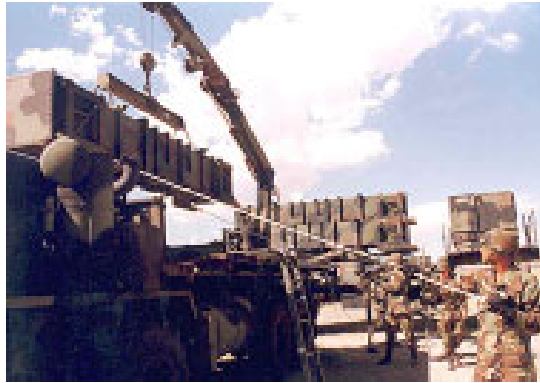
TRADOC's legacy is focus on soldiers, leaders

by Jim Caldwell

FORT MONROE, Va. (TRADOC News Service, June 18, 2003)



– Training and Doctrine Command has been the architect of the Army for 30 years; from the beginning on July 1, 1973, its main goal was training soldiers to fight and win on the battlefield.



“The biggest contribution that TRADOC has made to the Army, I think, is to have linked up the training process with combat developments and doctrine.”

DePuy led the study that created TRADOC and Forces Command to replace Continental Army Command. CONARC was a huge organization. It was responsible for every installation in the continental United States, and for every mission at those

installations.

“In the ‘60s, Army leadership thought they could solve all the problems of warfare by applying technology,” said Jim Stensvaag, TRADOC historian, who has chronicled events in TRADOC since 1985. “When Gen. William DePuy became TRADOC commander, his focus was on the soldier and making sure the soldier was trained so he knew what to do and how to use his equipment.

“The span of control was just enormous,” Stensvaag said. “Headquarters didn’t have a clue what was going on in the field in a lot of cases.”

continued on page 14

Byrnes sets sights on TRADOC's future continued

assess the officer corps. TRADOC is responsible for the Officers Candidate School program and the ROTC program. We have the senior ROTC program, which includes 270 colleges and universities. The view of the Army senior leadership is that soldiers have been and always will be the centerpiece of everything we do. We don’t get carried away with equipment. Some folks worry about the caliber of the weapon. The Army worries about the caliber of the person; that’s far more important. We equip the man, rather than man the equipment.”

Byrnes said it’s very important to get the best soldiers and ensure

they have to best training to maintain a quality force.

“We have to do everything we can to get the right quality of soldiers in the force and train them properly,” he said. “That’s my first priority. Once they’re in training, we will take no risks at all. We will not take any resource risks – we won’t be short people, training aids, or anything else to get that job done we’re going to deliver on it.”

Byrnes said he sent a message to the commandants within TRADOC that the schools, basic training and advanced individual training or one-station unit training will be fully resourced. He said the commandants will get everything they need so the schools can deliver in providing soldiers to first units with all the necessary training.

He said TRADOC will continue to contribute to the Army Transformation by ensuring the training and leader development programs are exactly what is needed for the future force. He said a crucial part of Transformation will include providing professional development training for the Army’s civilian workforce as well.

“It’s all about providing the education for quality leaders in the future force,” he explained. “We’re going through the NCO study right now, and we will be bringing the recommendation into the Pentagon for the senior leadership in the late summer or early fall. We’ll also study the warrant officers’ program, but the real challenge to all of this will be the civilian education.

“How do we provide for the professional development of our civilians?” he said. “I think we’ve tried very hard in the past and we’ve made some progress, but we’re not there. We need to do a lot better, and I think that will be the tougher one. I think you’ll see TRADOC in the future take responsibility for the education for Department of the Army civilians.”



Ottoman Dignity, a Turkish oil tanker, in the rear background, waits at Ceyhan oil terminal in Turkey on Sunday, June 22, 2003 as it waits to be loaded with one million barrels of Iraqi crude oil, marking Iraq’s first oil export to the world oil market since the beginning of the Iraq war. (AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

TRADOC's legacy is focus on soldiers, leaders continued

The functions of writing new doctrine, developing new equipment and organizations were separated from each other. "There was no guarantee that soldiers would be trained in any of it," he said.



DePuy and the second Deputy Chief of Staff for Training, Gen. Paul Gorman, created a "revolution" in training with the now-familiar task, conditions and standard or each job a soldier performs.

"The absolute demand that not only soldiers, but their leaders and units, perform their jobs to standard has made the U.S. Army the most proficient army in the world," Stensvaag said.

CONARC also wasn't efficient in supporting field units.

"That was another of the reasons that Gen. DePuy had been interested in changing CONARC," the historian said. "When he was a commander, it wasn't very responsive to his needs. So one of his major intents in standing up the new organization was to make it really serve the rest of the Army.

"That important legacy has lasted all 30 years. Now you hear Gen. (Kevin P.) Byrnes (current TRADOC commander) talk about the Army being TRADOC's client, the client relationship."



Not a lot has changed about TRADOC's mission over the 30 years of its existence, but the organization itself has changed to carry it out.

"TRADOC has been very good all along at changing itself to meet the needs of the Army," Stensvaag said.

"The first really consequential changes

came only about four months after TRADOC was organized, and that was because of the '73 Yom Kippur War and the lessons that Gen. DePuy and his staff learned about the new way of warfare.

"They were also already thinking about the post-Vietnam Army when TRADOC came about. The draft was ended, and the all-volunteer Army came about shortly as well."

Today TRADOC is changing again to help Army Transformation make the first Objective Force a reality around 2010. TRADOC's Transformation aims to make all the organization more responsive and efficient in an era of rapid technological and international

developments.

"The concern is once again span of control," Stensvaag said. "The issues have become so complex that, again, the headquarters is getting to the point where it can't really know, coordinate and integrate everything that's going on in the command."

The answer is to return to the integrating centers first established by Gen. Donn Starry, T R A D O C commander from 1977-81.

Combined Arms Command, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., is responsible for developing training and doctrine for combat arms. It also oversees leadership training and education programs for officers, noncommissioned officers and warrant officers.

The Combined Arms Support Center, Fort Lee, Va., refines logistics support organizational and equipment concepts for future battlefields.

The Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., provides combat engineer support, chemical and biological protection and military police for the Army.

"TRADOC Transformation officials are calling the headquarters the super integrator, which means taking all the parts and putting them together," Stensvaag said.



While technology has enabled some processes to change, TRADOC military and civilian specialists still perform the basic functions of the command.

"I think that Gen. DePuy's vision that the Army needed some organization to ensure that training is being done well and linked with combat developments and doctrine is as absolutely right now as it was in 1973," he said.

Okinawa governor demands U.S. troops leave

TOKYO (AP) - Okinawa's governor demanded U.S. forces leave the southern island, as residents marked the 58th anniversary Monday of the final land battle of World War II between U.S. and Japanese forces.

"We ask that the United States and Japan boost efforts to relocate U.S. bases from Okinawa and revise the U.S.-Japan security pact," Keiichi Inamine said in a speech.

Nearly half of the 53,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan are on Okinawa, and Inamine said their presence remains a huge burden for residents. Inamine has repeatedly called for U.S. troop reductions there and made it a central part of his re-election campaign last year.

Okinawans bowed their heads for a minute of silence on Monday for the anniversary of the battle, which happened in the closing

months of the war in 1945. A quarter of a million people died, including at least 12,500 Americans and about one-third of the 450,000 civilians on the island.

Although U.S. bases give a major economic boost to Okinawa's struggling economy, crimes and accidents involving U.S. military personnel in recent years have intensified demands for U.S. forces to leave or be relocated to other parts of the country.

On Wednesday, U.S. military authorities agreed to hand over a 21-year-old U.S. Marine suspected of raping a Japanese woman in Okinawa last month. It was only the second time a U.S. soldier has been handed over on the island before being formally charged.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who did not attend Monday's ceremony, has said he is studying a response to the Okinawans' demands.

Bush opens third season of T-ball

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush ushered in the third season of T-ball on the South Lawn Sunday with two squads of children from Virginia military bases.

"Today we honor the men and women who wear our nation's uniform, and it is our honor to welcome two teams, two mighty squads" from military bases, Bush said before placing the first ball in the tee and yelling "play ball!"

The Little League Yankees from Naval Base Norfolk faced the Little League Braves of Fort Belvoir. The first and third base coaches were Army and Navy servicemen, respectively; the national anthem singer was an Air Force master sergeant; the color guard was a Boy Scout troop from the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Va.; and the band was made up of Coast Guard personnel.

Retired Baltimore Orioles star Cal Ripken Jr. returned for a second season as Bush's T-ball "commissioner." Ripken said he saw the significance of many of military families reuniting after serving in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars.

"In some small way, baseball took my dad away, in a totally different context," Ripken, whose father was a Major League Baseball coach and manager, told reporters after the game. "I think that it's cool that they're out there and they're reunited and they're just having fun the way families are supposed to have fun."

No score is kept in the T-ball games, but Sunday's contest featured plenty of action on a sunny second day of summer.

T.J. Flood, 6, of the Little League Braves, hit an inside-the-park home run with a hard drive to right-center.



Italian soldiers of the International Security Assistance Force shop for wooden decoration items in a local market in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, June 22, 2003.(AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)



MEETING TOWN LEADERS — A soldier with the 101st Airborne Division provides security for Ghamin Sultan Al Basso, interim mayor of Mosul, Iraq, as he and the head of Iraq's Christian clergy enter the Christian Eastern Orthodox church in Bartawlla, Iraq, June 16 for a meeting with the town leaders. Defense Dept. photo by Sgt. Michael Bracken, U.S. Army.



French soldiers ask protesters to move back as they block the road to Bunia airport, Congo stopping several hundred residents from marching there Saturday, June 21, 2003. Protesters first marched to the U.N. compound in Bunia and were turned away by UN soldiers and then attempted to get to the airport, but were blocked by French soldiers, to protest the unannounced and unexpected arrival on Friday of 112 Congolese policemen from the capital, Kinshasa. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)



A soldier looks at an assortment of DVD movies at a June 13 bazaar at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Milton H. Robinson.



U.S. Army military policeman Kevin Roof from San Antonio, Texas inspects a used .38 caliber revolver before issuing it to an Iraqi policeman as part of an American plan to upgrade the local police force in Fallujah, Iraq Monday, June 23, 2003. (AP Photo/John Moore)

An armed Palestinian gunman from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), wears a slogan that reads, "martyr Abu Ali Mustafa brigade, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" during a funeral for four Palestinians killed Monday, June 23, 2003, in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Four Palestinians were killed allegedly when a bomb they were planting went off in northern Gaza. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

